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NATURE, PURPOSE, AND SCOPE

OF THE

NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SURVEY PROGRAM

(Advance copy - approved by the NIS Committee 11/15/49)
(This replaces "General Instructions", Standard Instructions for NIS)

1. Authority for the NIS Program

The National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Program was established pursuant to National Security Council Intelligence Directive No. 3, 13 January 1948. This directive provides that:

- a. An outline of all basic intelligence required by the Government shall be prepared by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in collaboration with other appropriate agencies.
- b. This outline shall be broken down into chapters, sections, and subsections which shall be allocated as production and maintenance responsibilities to CIA and those other Government agencies best qualified by reason of their intelligence requirements, production capabilities, and dominant interest to assume these responsibilities.
- c. This basic intelligence shall be compiled and continuously maintained in National Intelligence Survey to cover foreign countries, areas, or broad special subjects, as appropriate.
- d. The NIS shall be disseminated in such form as may be determined by the Director of Central Intelligence (DCI) and the agencies concerned.
- e. The DCI shall be responsible for coordinating the production and maintenance and for accomplishing the editing, publication, and dissemination of the NIS and shall make such requests on the agencies as are necessary for the proper development and maintenance of the NIS.
- f. Departments or agencies to be called on for contributions to this undertaking may include agencies other than those represented permanently in the Intelligence Advisory Committee (IAC).

2. Basic Concepts of the NIS Program

- a. The NIS is a concise digest of basic intelligence required (i) by

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the Department of Defense for strategic planning and high level operational planning and (ii) by the Department of State for use in formulating and executing US foreign policy. It also serves other Government agencies which require it for the accomplishment of their missions. In general, the intelligence contained in NIS (i) is concerned with the relatively permanent features and fundamental characteristics of a country, area, or broad special subject and (ii) covers such fields as the geographical, political, economic, military, scientific, and sociological aspects of the country or area or the fundamental aspects of the broad special subject.

b. The NIS Program has two phases: (i) the initial production of NIS on countries or areas in accordance with JCS priorities and Intelligence Agency capabilities and (ii) the continuous maintenance of such NIS.

(1) The objective of the first phase is to produce integrated basic intelligence studies of all pertinent aspects of the countries or areas within the limits of available information and intelligence on countries or areas.

(2) The objective of the second phase is to keep up to date the basic intelligence contained in the published NIS, to fill gaps in this intelligence, and to improve the presentation of material in NIS originally produced. It is the responsibility of agencies having dominant interest to place each NIS element actively on a maintenance basis as soon as the element has been initially produced. This phase of the program is to continue indefinitely. Revisions will be published as required.

c. Both phases of the NIS Program require an over-all collection effort covering all important foreign countries and areas of the world simultaneously.

(1) If information is available to undertake an NIS of lower priority than one on which adequate material is not

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 2 -

C O N F I D E N T I A L

available, the NIS of lower priority will be produced and will not be held in abeyance pending the availability of material for the NIS of higher priority.

(2) While the aim of the collection effort will be to enable the production of complete and reliable published NIS, it must be recognized that the production and maintenance program requires information in greater detail than the intelligence which appears in the published NIS.

(3) New information will be continuously processed so that the intelligence on hand will be constantly up to date and ready for use.

d. The NIS Program must be flexible in order to meet the basic intelligence requirements of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. To this end it may be necessary to produce and disseminate separate chapters or sections of any NIS.

3. Standard Instructions for National Intelligence Surveys

The Standard Instructions for National Intelligence Surveys contain outlines of basic intelligence requirements, allocations of responsibility for production, and instructions for the production of this intelligence. These Standard Instructions were prepared by a joint committee of representatives of the Director of Central Intelligence and the Chiefs of the Intelligence Agencies of the Departments of State, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force; were concurred in by the Intelligence Advisory Committee; and were approved by the National Security Council.

a. The outlines and outline guides are so drafted as to cover all the basic intelligence aspects of the most complex foreign country or area. However, the appropriate treatment of any topic included in the outlines and outline guides is determined by the sense in which and the extent to which that topic applies to the particular country or area under consideration. Thus, the outlines and outline guides should be adapted to the country or area on which the NIS is being produced.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 3 -

C O N F I D E N T I A L

b. The Standard Instructions prescribe the basic procedures to be followed in producing and maintaining all NIS. They cannot, however, cover all contingencies. Hence, when cogent reasons exist, the instructions may be modified or supplemented to permit appropriate treatment of any topic.

4. Content of an NIS

a. An NIS is divided into chapters, each of which treats a major functional aspect of the country or area under consideration. These chapters are divided into sections, each of which treats a major sub-division of the field covered by the chapter. The section is so designed as to permit it to serve as the basic unit of production and maintenance and so enhance the flexibility of the NIS Program. The NIS chapters are as follows:

- Chapter I - BRIEF
- Chapter II - MILITARY GEOGRAPHY
- Chapter III - TRANSPORTATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
- Chapter IV - SOCIOLOGICAL
- Chapter V - POLITICAL
- Chapter VI - ECONOMIC
- Chapter VII - SCIENTIFIC
- Chapter VIII - ARMED FORCES
- Chapter IX - MAP AND CHART APPRAISAL

Each NIS will include a Gazetteer.

b. Certain topics involving numerous details are given general treatment in appropriate sections of NIS chapters and full treatment in supplements. Supplements are prepared only if the topic in question is sufficiently important in an NIS Area to warrant this detailed treatment.

There are, at present, the following five supplements:

- NIS SUPPLEMENT NO. I - PORTS AND NAVAL FACILITIES
- NIS SUPPLEMENT NO. II - AIR FACILITIES
- NIS SUPPLEMENT NO. III - TELECOMMUNICATIONS

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 4 -

NIS SUPPLEMENT NO. IV - TOWNS

NIS SUPPLEMENT NO. V - PETROLEUM

c. The geographic areas covered by the NIS are generally defined by political boundaries. In Chapters II (Military Geography), however, areas are determined in terms of natural geographic units.

(1) In some instances, it is desirable to define the geographic area in terms of natural boundaries. For example, since the Iberian Peninsula, including the approaches into the Pyrenees from France, forms a natural geographic concept, it should be considered geographically as a whole. Thus, the geographic treatment of this area would serve as Chapter II for both NIS-Portugal and NIS-Spain.

(2) Conversely, the area included within political boundaries may be so extensive as to embrace several natural geographic units. Examples of such areas are the USSR and China. Chapters II for these areas would consist of several parts, each treating a natural geographic unit.

(3) In addition, it will be necessary to transcend political boundaries in many instances in order to obtain comprehensive treatment of certain functional aspects, such as transportation and ports and naval facilities; and such procedure should be followed wherever necessary.

d. The scope of each chapter and supplement is outlined in detail in the Standard Instructions. The following standard definitions apply explicitly to Chapters II-IX and by implication to Chapter I:

(1) The first section of each chapter is uniformly entitled INTRODUCTION. This section is not a summary of the basic intelligence contained in the remainder of the chapter or an explanation of the organization of the chapter. Rather, it presents an analysis of the basic intelligence contained in the chapter. It also presents

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 5 -

C O N F I D E N T I A L

general aspects which cannot be treated adequately elsewhere in the chapter. For example, the organization and functions of the high command are covered in Section 80 (INTRODUCTION to Chapter VIII - Armed Forces) because this topic cannot be adequately treated in the subsequent sections of Chapter VIII. The chapter outline guides indicate the nature and scope of the treatment to be accorded the INTRODUCTION of each chapter.

(2) The first subsection of each section is uniformly entitled GENERAL. This subsection is provided to permit a proper approach to the treatment of material contained in the remainder of the section.

(3) The last subsection of most sections is uniformly entitled COMMENTS ON PRINCIPAL SOURCES. This subsection is to serve the following purposes:

(a) To provide an evaluation of the principal source material used in preparing the section and thereby inform the user of the general credibility to be accorded the intelligence contained in the section.

(b) To indicate those aspects of the subject about which information is deficient or unavailable and thereby provide collectors of information with collection targets. In this connection, the principal sources (not necessarily all sources) actually used should be indicated.

5. Summary of Agency Functions

a. General

(1) Where one agency is responsible for a section of a chapter or a subsection of a section which is being coordinated by another agency working level liaison shall be

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 6 -

C O N F I D E N T I A L

maintained. All communications of a policy or requirements nature to the agency preparing the section or subsection will be passed through intelligence command channels.

(2) In all instances working level coordination among agencies concerned will include the following:

(a) Exchange, where applicable, of drafts of completed draft sections in order to resolve inconsistencies among sections and detect gaps in over-all coverage.

(b) Informal coordination in compiling specific subsections which are assigned as the responsibility of one agency but impinge upon the field of interest of another.

b. NIS Committee

(1) The NIS Committee consists of representatives of the Director of Central Intelligence and the Chiefs of the Intelligence Agencies of the Departments of State, the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force. The representative of the Director of Central Intelligence is ex officio chairman of the committee. It also includes an advisory member from the Joint Staff who shall:

(a) Be thoroughly familiar with the basic intelligence requirements of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS).

(b) Keep the JCS informed of the progress of the NIS Program.

(c) Keep the NIS Committee informed of changes in the JCS requirements.

(2) The NIS Committee performs the following functions:

(a) Considers and recommends for Intelligence Agency approval over-all policies for the NIS Program.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 7 -

C O N F I D E N T I A L

(b) Determines the scope and treatment of each NIS to be produced.

(c) Allocates responsibility for production and maintenance of NIS in accordance with the intelligence requirements, production capabilities, and dominant interest of the Intelligence Agencies concerned.

(d) Establishes NIS production and maintenance schedules based upon JCS priorities and agency capabilities.

(e) Promulgates procedures and instructions for the preparation, review, editing, and submission of NIS contributions.

(f) Recommends to CIA measures necessary for the coordination of the NIS Program.

c. The Central Intelligence Agency performs the following functions:

(1) Provides over-all coordination of the NIS Program.

(2) Produces those elements of NIS allocated to it for production by the NIS Committee.

(3) Furnishes certain common services which can best be done centrally.

(4) Edits NIS contributions, provides advisory substantive review, and arranges for the publication of NIS.

(5) Disseminates NIS in accordance with Intelligence Agency agreements.

d. The IAC Agencies (State, Army, Navy, and Air Force) perform the following functions:

(1) Provide a member and alternate members of the NIS Committee. This member represents, and speaks for, the Chief of the Intelligence Agency of the Department from which he is accredited.

(2) Produce and maintain the NIS elements which have

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 8 -

C O N F I D E N T I A L

been allocated by the NIS Committee as production responsibilities.

(3) Implement collection effort which may be required for NIS production and maintenance.

e. The non-IAC Agencies perform the following functions:

(1) Produce and maintain portions of NIS when explicitly assigned that responsibility by the NIS Committee or by an Intelligence Agency with the approval of that Committee.

(2) Furnish Intelligence Agencies with material for integration into NIS by those agencies.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

- 9 -